A Thousand Splendid Suns Summary #1

A young girl named Mariam who is 15 years old and lives with her mother (Nana) right outside of a town called Herat in Afghanistan. She has a father named Jalil who runs a local movie theater and who is a very rich man. Mariam only sees her father every once in a while and longs for the next day when she gets to see him. He is her idle and is obsessed with him. Nana does not like it when Jalil visits because he blinds Mariam with gifts and love. What Mariam doesn’t know but later finds out is that Jalil has monay other wives and he shares multiple children with each wife. Nana is aware of this and is so harsh on Mariam because of it. Nana does not want Mariam to see Jalil. One night Mariam asks about Jalil and what he does. Nana tells Mariam about how he owns a local movie theater and how is one of the richest men in the city. She also tells her about how he has more wives and children. Mariam is astonished to hear this and does not believe it at first. Nana goes on to explain that the reason why they live so far from the city is because Jalil is ashamed of Nana and Mariam. Mariam does not want to believe this and so goes on a journey into Heart to visit Jalil. She quickly realizes that Nana was right and runs home. When she returns home she finds that Nana has hung herself because what Mariam had done. Mariam does not know what to do so she goes back to Jalil’s house asking to stay. Jalil finally lets her in and Mariam is quick to see what he has been hiding from her. Most of what she sees is very expensive and all the children run around and play together and all of his wives do chores together and cook. Jalil gives Mariam a room and lets her be to make herself at home. After staying there a while the wives do not want Maraim to stay there anymore and request that Mariam leave. Jalil agrees and figures out a way for Mariam to leave. He contemplates for a while but quickly decides to have an arranged marriage for Mariam. This way she will have somewhere to stay besides Jalil’s house and she will be able to put herself to good use.